Manga: Kirihito Ayamura

Original Work: Nahuse

Character Designer: Gin

Environment Artist: yish

Mechanical Designer: cell

VOLUME

006

REBUILD WORLD

VOLUME
006

REBUILD WORLD

Manga: Kirihito Ayamura
Character Designer: Gin
Original Work: Nahuse
Environment Artist: yish
Mechanical Designer: cell

VOLUME

006

003
Chapter 25

037
Chapter 26

071
Chapter 27

107
Chapter 28

143
Chapter 29

The advanced civilization that once dominated the world crumbled to ruins long ago. As ages pass, the survivors have begun piecing together the fragments of its wisdom and glory as they struggle to rebuild their world.

REBUILD WORLD VOLUME.SIX

Chapter 25

I FOUND A BIG HOLE THAT'S NOT ON MY MAP.

IT COULD BE WHERE THE SCORPIONS THAT SWARMED CHECKPOINT 15 CAME FROM.

Boom

THIS IS 27.

IS THIS WHY AKIRA SUDDENLY TURNED ASIDE?

BUT HOW DID HE KNOW TO CHECK OVER HERE?

THE HOLE LEADS TO AN AREA WE HAVEN'T CHARTED YET.

THIS IS HQ. WE HAVE VISUAL ON IT.

NEGATIVE.

YEAH? WELL, EITHER WAY, I'D SAY THIS SEARCH IS OVER.

THERE ARE PROBABLY MULTIPLE SCORPION NESTS ON THE OTHER SIDE.

I'LL RETURN TO CHECK-POINT 14.

SWK

STAND BY AND AWAIT ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.

WE NEED TO ESTABLISH A NEW CHECK-POINT BEYOND THAT HOLE.

NO, I WON'T "WAIT."

THAT'S WAY TOO-

WAIT, YOU WANT US TO HOLD THEM OFF *ALONE*?!

UNTIL THEY ARRIVE, PREVENT ANY MONSTER INCURSIONS FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

OTTO

...TWENTY-SEVEN, ROGER THAT.

YOU'RE SECURITY. TEMPORARILY HOLDING POSITIONS IS IN YOUR JOB DESCRIPTION.

GET TO WORK.

...

I NEED TO DO SOME SERIOUS SELF-REFLECTION.

WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF MISS REINA HADN'T STEPPED IN?

I SHOULDN'T HAVE UNDERESTIMATED HIS COMPETENCY. I ASSUMED HE WOULD BACK DOWN IN THE FACE OF MY INTIMIDATION.

DID I CONSIDER THAT THE FIGHT I PICKED COULD TURN VIOLENT?

DID I THINK MY ACTIONS THROUGH?

...

HE "WOULDN'T HIRE SOMEONE WHO PICKS FIGHTS THEY DON'T HAVE TO"? I SUPPOSE I CAN'T BLAME HIM.

I COULDN'T ANSWER.

SHIORI, I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE I'VE PUT YOU THROUGH.

THAT REMINDS ME. I HAVEN'T EVEN THANKED YOU LATELY, HAVE I?

THANK YOU FOR BAILING ME OUT.

BESIDES, I WAS EQUALLY AT FAULT.

MISS, I DON'T THINK YOU OUGHT TO DWELL ON WHAT HAPPENED.

OF COURSE YOU MAY!

PLEASE DEPEND ON ME!

OF...

...BUT MAY I STILL COUNT ON YOU FOR HELP?

I'M SURE I'LL CAUSE MORE PROBLEMS GOING FORWARD...

FWIP

ALPHA, HOW MANY ARE THERE?

I DETECT 124 IN SCANNER RANGE.

AND MORE KEEP COMING.

THEN YOU SHOULD BE USED TO IT BY NOW. SO KEEP CALM AND DO YOUR THING.

FAIR ENOUGH.

IS IT JUST ME, OR DO I ALWAYS DRAW THE SHORT STRAW?

I'LL LAUNCH FLARES.

MISS, TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE.

BAEWSH

I'LL HANDLE THE HOLE. YOU TWO WATCH THE PASSAGE.

DID YOUR SCANNER PICK UP A THREAT?

...

GRRASH

MAYBE YOU IMAGINED IT?

THE FARTHEST LIGHT JUST WENT OUT...

FWSH

KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK

HERE THEY COME!

FIVE.

KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK

ZERO.

SLAM

SCRIII

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

AND LUCKY FOR US, IT'S EFFECTIVE AT LONG RANGE TOO.

DON'T CONSERVE AMMO. KILL AS MANY AS YOU CAN.

NO WONDER IT'S SO PRICEY!

YOU GOT IT!

MAN, THIS AMMO HITS HARD!

AMAZING!

AND HIS AIM NEVER WAVERS!

EACH SHOT SHOVES HIS WHOLE BODY BACK, BUT HIS FIRING STANCE STAYS ROCK SOLID!

I HAD NO IDEA HE WAS SO CAPABLE!

WHAT INCREDIBLE SKILL!

I JUST PACKED THE BEST AMMO I COULD GET!

THOSE ARE CWH PROPRIETARY CARTRIDGES, AREN'T THEY?!

WHY DID YOU BRING SOMETHING LIKE THAT DOWN HERE?!

MY CLIENT PAYS FOR MY AMMO!

I THOUGHT I COULD GET OUT OF THIS JOB IF I MADE THAT A CONDITION!

BUT SUCH EXPENSIVE AMMUNITION IS WASTED ON YARATA SCORPIONS! HOW CAN YOU TURN A PROFIT?!

NOW I THINK ABOUT IT, THOSE ASSHOLES MUST'VE KNOWN I'D WIND UP IN A MESS LIKE THIS!

I WOULDN'T BE HERE IF THEY HADN'T!

AND THEY AGREED, EVEN FOR CARTRIDGES THAT EXPENSIVE?!

KRA

TA TA TA

?!

BLAM

KLAK カ KLAK カ KLAK カ

WHERE DID THOSE COME FROM?!

ARE THERE OTHER HOLES?!

THEY'RE PROBABLY A DIFFERENT GROUP THAN THE ONE THAT ATTACKED CHECKPOINT 15, AND NOW THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY BACK HOME!

RA TTA TA TA TA

MISS! GET READY!

WE'RE ON IT!

MY HANDS ARE FULL! YOU TWO FIGURE SOMETHING OUT!

I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU!

I MEAN IT!

I REALLY, *REALLY* NEED YOU TO PULL THIS OFF!

LEAVE IT TO ME!

HA HA HA HA HA

AKIRA'S AN INCREDIBLE FIGHTER, BUT HE STILL BEGGED ME TO WATCH HIS BACK!

HE MADE THE RIGHT CALL!

THIS IS A PIECE OF CAKE!

I NEVER DREAMED MISS REINA COULD FIGHT SO WELL!

PERHAPS I UNDERESTI-MATED HER POTENTIAL.

BUT WHY HAS SHE BLOOMED SO SUDDENLY?

YOU'VE ELIMINATED EVERY ENEMY IN RANGE OF MY SCAN. GOOD WORK!

WHERE ARE OUR REINFORCE-MENTS?! I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY!

NO!

I ALREADY DISPATCHED THEM TO YOUR POSITION. THEY HAVEN'T ARRIVED YET?

SO TELL 'EM TO HAUL ASS!

YOU'LL BE FINE.

I THINK.

THEY'RE NOT GONNA DEMAND I PAY UP LATER, RIGHT? I'M IN THE CLEAR?

I USED A FORTUNE IN PRO-PRIETARY AMMO.

!! TSUGH

Y-YOU MEAN YOU'RE NOT SURE?!

PERHAPS IF...

MAYBE.

UNLESS...

HOW COULD I BE? I DON'T WORK FOR THE CITY.

PLEASE JUST TELL ME I'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

YOU'LL BE FINE. I THINK. PROBABLY.

MISS?!

YUCK...

!! SQUELCH

ぐちゃ

ぷち

ぷち

I...I'M FINE. I'LL HELP YOU.

I'LL INVES-TIGATE THE OPENING. PLEASE WAIT IN THE PASSAGE.

SQUEEZ

I'VE GOT TO GET USED TO THIS IF I WANT TO BE A HUNTER.

THEY REALLY SWARMED THE HALLWAY TOO, HUH?

MAYBE THAT WAS A CLOSER CALL THAN I THOUGHT.

BUT EVERY SCORPION STILL DIED BEFORE IT GOT CLOSE TO YOU.

THOSE TWO MUST BE QUITE SKILLED.

SIGH

MEANING IT'S OUT OF MY LEAGUE.

OF COURSE YOU COULD— WITH MY FULL SUPPORT.

SO I COULDN'T HAVE PULLED OFF WHAT THEY DID?

I BIT OFF MORE THAN I COULD CHEW.

I GUESS I REALLY WASN'T READY FOR THIS JOB YET.

HERE'S YOUR BACK-UP.

TOOK 'EM LONG ENOUGH.

HEY...

I DON'T OBJECT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK.

IT'S NOT QUITE WHAT WE AGREED, BUT CAN WE SAY MY JOB'S DONE NOW?

THIS IS 27.

BEEP

THIS IS HQ.

THAT'S JUST FINE.

IF YOUR RESULTS DIDN'T MATCH YOUR EXPENSES, WE'D JUST TERMINATE YOUR CONTRACT.

WHEW

NO WAY!

I AM *NOT* PAYING FOR MY AMMO!

BUT WE'VE GOT A FEW QUESTIONS FOR YOU.

WE'VE LARGELY FINISHED GOING OVER YOUR COMBAT LOGS.

...ADD 'EM UP HOW-EVER YOU LIKE, THEN DIVIDE BY THREE.

AS LONG AS YOU DON'T PULL ANY BULLSHIT, LIKE NOT COUNTING MASHED-UP BODIES...

SO WE'LL CALCULATE YOUR PAY BASED ON OUR ESTIMATE OF YOUR TEAM'S TOTAL KILL COUNT. ANY PREFERENCE AS TO HOW WE GO ABOUT THAT?

NOW, ABOUT YOUR BONUS. WE CAN'T CALCULATE EXACTLY HOW MANY SCORPIONS YOU EACH KILLED IN ALL THAT CHAOS.

IS THERE A PROB-LEM?

...ARE YOU SURE?

HQ OUT.

YOU'VE CONSENTED TO THAT OVER THIS CALL...

...SO DON'T WHINE ABOUT IT LATER.

NO, JUST MAKING CERTAIN. WE'LL COUNT THE KILLS, THEN DIVIDE BY THREE.

HQ JUST EXPLAINED HOW WE'LL BE PAID FOR THAT BATTLE.

UMM...

OOO

HELL NO!

WHAT? ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY YOU DESERVE ALL THE CREDIT, SINCE I WAS GETTING PAID TO SUPPORT YOU?

YEAH. THAT'S WHAT I TOLD 'EM WHEN THEY ASKED.

THEY SAID WE EACH GET CREDIT FOR A THIRD OF THE KILLS. IS THAT RIGHT?

OPPO-SITE HOW?

NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN! NOT AT ALL! QUITE THE OPPOSITE!

YEAH. THE THREE OF US GOT THE KILLS, SO WE SPLIT 'EM THREE WAYS.

WELL, NORMALLY WE'D DEDUCT AMMO COSTS FIRST, BUT MY CLIENT'S COVERING MINE.

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO SPLIT IT EQUALLY?!

YOU TOOK OUT MOST OF THAT SWARM ON YOUR OWN!

AND EVEN IF I KILLED MORE, I WOULD'VE BEEN IN TROUBLE WITHOUT YOU WATCHING MY BACK.

WE EACH HAD OUR OWN JOBS TO DO, IS ALL.

WELL, NO, BUT...

YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH ANY OF THAT?

YOU'RE RIGHT. I DON'T NEED TO ARGUE.

I...I UNDER-STAND.

MISS, WE'VE LOST NOTHING, AND MR. AKIRA IS SATISFIED. I SUGGEST WE LET THE MATTER REST.

ARGUING TO NO PURPOSE CAN SPARK NEEDLESS CONFLICT.

IS THAT ALL YOU WANT FROM ME?

IT IS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

BUT I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT SO MUCH MORE WITH AKIRA...

I KNEW IT. REINA'S ACTING KIND OF STRANGE.

...

ASK THEM YOURSELF.

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT A SUPPORT JOB?

HEY, DO YOU MIND IF I ASK YOU SOME-THING?

JUST ASK THEM.

WE'RE WORKING IN A TEAM WITH THEM.
SO WE'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WHILE WE WERE SEPARATED.
WOULD YOU MIND FILLING US IN?

IS THERE A REASON YOU CAN'T TELL ME?
OR MAYBE SOMETHING YOU NEED TO HIDE?

THEY CAN TELL YOU THAT THEM-SELVES.

SO GO. ASK. THEM.

Chapter 26

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN REINA, SHIORI, AND THIS GUY?

ME AND SHIORI NEARLY KILLED EACH OTHER.

BUT SHE AND REINA CAN DECIDE WHETHER TO TELL THESE GUYS THAT.

IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO SPEAK.

I'D BETTER STEP IN BEFORE THIS TURNS UGLY.

BUT KATSUYA'S JUST WORRIED ABOUT REINA. WHAT CAN I SAY TO MAKE HIM BACK OFF?

LET'S GO, KATSUYA.

YOU'RE WASTING YOUR BREATH ON HIM.

UM, YUMINA?

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THIS GUY.

HOW CAN YOU TRUST ANYTHING HE TELLS YOU?

W-WELL, YOU HAVE A POINT. BUT...

...THAT'S TRUE. LET'S HEAD BACK.

LET'S.

EXACTLY. YOU DON'T WANT VAGUE INFO YOU CAN'T TRUST.

RIGHT?

ASKING OUR TEAM-MATES WILL BE FASTER AND MORE RELIABLE.

FWIP

SHE PLAYED THAT PERFECTLY. WE WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE.

YEAH. I'M GLAD I DIDN'T HAVE TO ARGUE.

DASH

MAYBE I SHOULD'VE JUST ANSWERED, "NOTHING MUCH."

SHE BOWED TO ME?

SO, SHE TOOK THAT TONE ON PURPOSE, TO STOP US FROM FIGHTING?

ALL RIGHT, YOU'VE BEEN DOWN HERE EIGHT HOURS!

SWEET!

YOUR SHIFT'S OVER, SO CONTACT HQ.

ONE DOWN, SIX TO GO.

SO KEEP IT UP!

GOOD WORK. YOU SURVIVED ANOTHER DAY!

THE NEXT DAY

I NEARLY RAN OUT OF THAT SPECIAL CWH AMMO YESTERDAY.

*BUT WHAT I BROUGHT TODAY HAS **GOT** TO BE ENOUGH.*

?

THERE YOU ARE, 27.

WHAT'LL IT BE, RECON OR EXTER-MINATION?

AFTER YOUR WORK YESTERDAY, THEY DECIDED YOU'RE TOO GOOD TO WASTE GUARDING CHECK-POINTS.

BE GLAD YOU IMPRESSED SOMEONE.

CAN'T I PICK SECURITY? I'D RATHER DO THE SAME JOB AS YESTER-DAY.

NO CAN DO. YOU GET RECON OR EXTER-MINATION.

NO SECURITY JOBS FOR YOU.

...I WISH THEY'D BEEN IMPRESSED WITH HOW GOOD I WAS AT SECURITY.

NOT MY PROBLEM. NOW, CHOOSE.

IF YOU WANT PREDICTABLE WORK AND SAFETY IN NUMBERS, I RECOMMEND EXTERMINATION.

...

ON A RECON TEAM, YOU CAN AVOID COMBAT IF YOU SCOUT WELL ENOUGH.

BUT WITH AN EXTERMINATION TEAM, YOU'LL GO INTO FIGHTS WITH PLENTY OF FIREPOWER.

I'LL GO WITH RECON.

YOU GOT IT. HEAD TO CHECKPOINT 19. YOU'LL GET YOUR ORDERS THERE.

THAT GUY LOVES RECKLESS STUNTS.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO ENVY THE KID OR PITY HIM.

"RECOM-MENDED BY KIBAYASHI."

"PLACEMENT SUPERVISOR KIBAYASHI."

"MUNITIONS REIM-BURSEMENT APPROVED BY KIBAYASHI."

THIS HAS GOTTA BE *THAT* KIBAYASHI!

BUT I'D HAVE TO FIGHT CREATURES THAT TAKE A TON OF CWH AMMO TO KILL, RIGHT?

ONCE WAS ENOUGH FOR ME.

I THINK EXTER-MINATION WAS YOUR BEST BET TO AVOID SITU-ATIONS LIKE THE ONE YOU FACED YESTERDAY.

WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME WHY YOU CHOSE RECON, AKIRA?

PROPRIETARY AMMUNITION IS EXPENSIVE, AND YOU CAN BOOST SHIZUKA'S PROFITS BY BUYING IT FROM HER IN BULK.

BUT THE MORE YOU BUY, THE MORE SHE'LL WORRY.

YOU CARE MORE ABOUT THE LATTER. AM I WRONG?

WHAT?

ME DYING WON'T HELP EITHER OF US.

"STAARE"

...

...FAIR ENOUGH.

I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT. BUT IF YOU WANT TO STOP HER FROM WORRYING, I SUGGEST YOU HURRY UP AND IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS.

CHECK-POINT 19

HUSTLE #7

YOU MUST BE 27. THE RECON TEAM THAT YOU'LL BE JOINING IS OUT SCOUTING AT THE MOMENT.

KEEP YOUR-SELF BUSY UNTIL THEY GET BACK.

SURE THING.

HUSTLE #7

I'D SAY IT SERVES AS A MAKESHIFT BASE FOR HUNTERS HEADING INTO UNCHARTED TERRITORY.

THIS PLACE IS PACKED.

WHAT FOR?

BECAUSE YOU'LL FIGHT IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE.

THOSE GUYS MUST'VE GOTTEN POSTED HERE TOO.

LOOKS LIKE IT.

NOW THAT YOU KNOW, STEER CLEAR OF THEM.

...FINE.

AKIRA!

YUP.

LONG TIME NO SEE!

DID YOU AND ELENA TAKE JOBS DOWN HERE TOO?

THEN, THE RECON TEAM I'M SUPPOSED TO JOIN IS...

ME?

STILL, I WASN'T EXPECTING *YOU* TO BE OUR NEW MEMBER.

I'M AKIRA, MA'AM!

IT'S A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH YOU TODAY!

SNAP

FWISH

WELCOME TO RECON TEAM 9.

I'M YOUR LEADER, ELENA.

HEE HEE.

SO, ELENA STUCK WITH THAT POWERED SUIT.

GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US. WHEN IT GETS DANGEROUS, PLAY IT SAFE AND RELY ON US.

I UNDER-STAND. THANKS IN ADVANCE!

SHIZUKA WOULD BE HEARTBROKEN IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU.

FOUR?

ISN'T THAT, ER, KIND OF ON THE SMALL SIDE?

FOUR, INCLUDING YOU.

SO TELL ME, HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE ON THIS TEAM?

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

I'LL MAKE SURE TO GIVE HR A PIECE OF MY MIND.

WE'D PLANNED TO SCOUT WITH A LARGER GROUP.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE OTHER MEMBERS DIDN'T EXACTLY GET ALONG.

MY NAME'S AKIRA.

GOOD TO BE WORKING WITH YOU.

NAME'S SHIKARABE. I'M ON RECON TEAM 9.

ARE YOU OUR NEW MEMBER?

I'M HAPPY TO HAVE EXTRA HELP—BUT NOT EXTRA BAGGAGE.

CAN YOU PULL YOUR WEIGHT?

HQ SENT ME HERE.

SO IF YOU DECIDE I CAN'T CUT IT, COMPLAIN TO THEM.

YOU DON'T SOUND TOO SURE OF YOURSELF.

AFRAID YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

HEH.

I'M NOT SKILLED ENOUGH TO PROMISE I CAN HANDLE WHATEVER COMES UP OR ALWAYS KEEP THE TEAM SAFE.

SO NO, I GUESS I'M NOT SURE OF MYSELF.

AT LEAST YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THEM. THAT'S A RELIEF.

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH OVER-CONFIDENT IDIOTS FOR TOO LONG.

HE DOESN'T SEEM ALL THAT TOUGH.

BUT OH WELL. HQ WOULDN'T HAVE SENT A HUNTER WHO COULDN'T AT LEAST DO THE JOB.

AKIRA?

YEAH, I'M READY TO LEAVE ANYTIME.

…HUH?

WE'LL LEAVE IN ABOUT FIVE MINUTES, ONCE I FINISH TRANSFERRING THE DATA FROM OUR LAST TRIP.

HOW LONG UNTIL WE HEAD OUT AGAIN?

DOES THAT WORK FOR YOU, AKIRA?

I SHOULDN'T NEED TO REMIND YOU, BUT DON'T PICK ANY FIGHTS.

I KNOW. ANYWAY, I DOUBT THEY'LL TRY ANYTHING IN FRONT OF ELENA AND SARA.

CAN WE COUNT ON YOU TO HANDLE DISPUTES WITH OTHER DRUNCAM HUNTERS?

OF COURSE. IF THEY GIVE YOU ANY TROUBLE, JUST SEND 'EM MY WAY!

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! I'M NOT UNDER YOUR COMMAND ANYMORE!

DO YOU REALIZE HOW MANY PROB-LEMS YOU'RE CAUSING FOR ELENA AND SARA?!

REMEMBER WHAT ELENA SAID ABOUT OUR OTHER MEMBERS NOT GETTING ALONG?

WELL, SHIKARABE REFUSED TO WORK WITH KATSUYA'S TEAM.

WILL YOU EVER GET OVER YOUR-SELF?!

SO YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP SCOUT-ING AN AREA THIS DAN-GEROUS WITH JUST THREE PEOPLE?!

SHUT YOUR YAP UNTIL YOU GET IT THROUGH YOUR SKULL THAT HAVING YOU BRATS WOULD BE EVEN WORSE!

MEET AKIRA.

HE FOUGHT OFF A WHOLE SWARM YESTERDAY, AND HE'S GOT HQ'S SEAL OF APPROVAL.

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. HQ FOUND US ANOTHER MEMBER.

GET LOST!

SO WHAT?

...BUT HE'S NOT WITH DRUNCAM.

YOU AGAIN?!

ALTHOUGH I DON'T BLAME YOU IF YOUR PRIOR EXPERIENCE GAVE YOU THAT IDEA.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'VE GOT TO LUG DEAD WEIGHT AROUND AND THEN GIVE IT A CUT OF MY PAY.

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO PRIORITIZE FELLOW DRUNCAM HUNTERS WHEN YOU NEED REINFORCE-MENTS!

I'LL ADMIT YOU'RE A FULL-FLEDGED HUNTER NOW. YOU DON'T NEED A LEAD-ER TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE YOU MY EQUAL. KNOW YOUR PLACE AND BACK OFF.

...I'LL CONSIDER YOU AN ENEMY AND RESPOND ACCORDINGLY.

IF YOU GET IN MY WAY...

IT'S TIME.

LET'S GO!

HMPH.

O-OH.

HEY, SHIORI? IS THAT HOW I ACTED YESTERDAY?

PARDON ME, MISS, BUT I BELIEVE YOU WERE WORSE.

ドドド

PANT

PANT

PANT

PANT

HE'S ALREADY EXHAUSTED.

I THOUGHT THIS WOULD MAKE GOOD TRAINING, BUT HE CAN'T DO ALL THIS HIMSELF YET.

I'LL SCAN FOR THREATS, SO RELAX A LITTLE.

AKIRA, SCOUTING PRACTICE IS CANCELED.

HEY, AKIRA. WHAT'S HAPPENING ON OUR RIGHT?

WHEW

OKAY.

TO BE HONEST, I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE.

THANKS.

THERE ARE THREE YARATA SCORPIONS 50 METERS AWAY.

THEY'RE NOT MOVING, SO I THINK THEY'RE DEAD.

EVEN IF THEY'RE FAKING, THEY AREN'T IN OUR PATH.

SINCE THEY'RE NOT APPROACH-ING, I THINK WE CAN IGNORE THEM.

MAN, I THOUGHT YOU'D JUST STARTED SLACKING OFF, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT ON THE BALL.

SORRY FOR DOUBTING YOU.

HE'S RIGHT.

THANKS.

ARE MY INSTINCTS GETTING DULL?

NAH, THEY'RE RAZOR SHARP.

HOW COULD HE TELL, ALPHA?

PROBABLY INSTINCTS, LIKE HE SAID.

INSTINCTS?

HIS FIVE SENSES AND HIS SCANNER ALERTED HIM TO A SLIGHT CHANGE IN YOUR MOVEMENTS.

HE CONCLUDED YOU WERE SLACKING OFF.

I'LL NEED YOU TO LEARN TO DO THAT TOO SOMEDAY.

SO KEEP WORKING AT IT!

...WHOA.

SINCE HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HOW HE REACHED THAT CONCLUSION, HE CALLS IT INSTINCTS.

I WISH YOU WOULDN'T DRAG AKIRA OR US INTO YOUR SYNDICATE'S INTERNAL SQUABBLES.

SURE MAKES ME GLAD WE DITCHED KATSUYA.

JACK-POT!

WE ADDED HIM FOR FIREPOWER, BUT HE'S A GOOD SCOUT TOO.

KATSUYA AND HIS TEAM ARE COMPE-TENT...

...BUT I COULDN'T BE SURE THEY'D FOLLOW MY ORDERS IN AN EMERGENCY.

OH, COME ON! YOU AGREED WITH MY CONCERNS, REMEMBER?

SIC!

SEE?

I'LL DO MY BEST TO GIVE GOOD ORDERS...

...AND I'LL EXPLAIN MY REASONS IF YOU ASK.

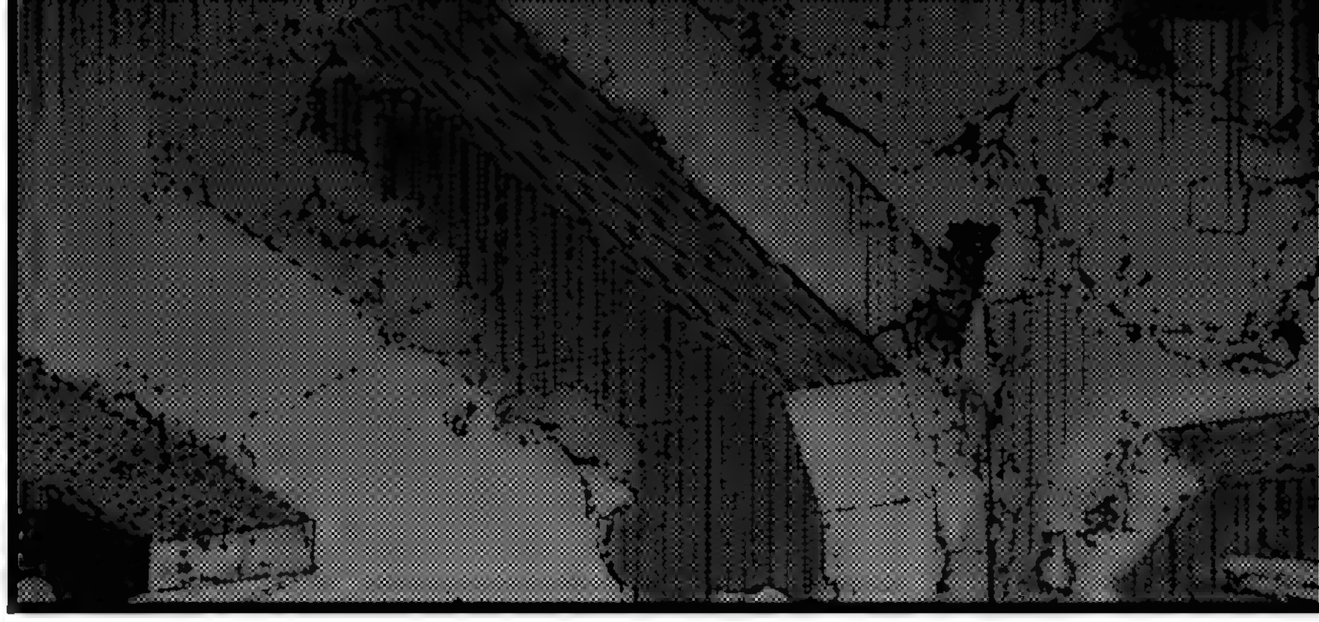
I UNDER-STAND. DON'T WORRY!

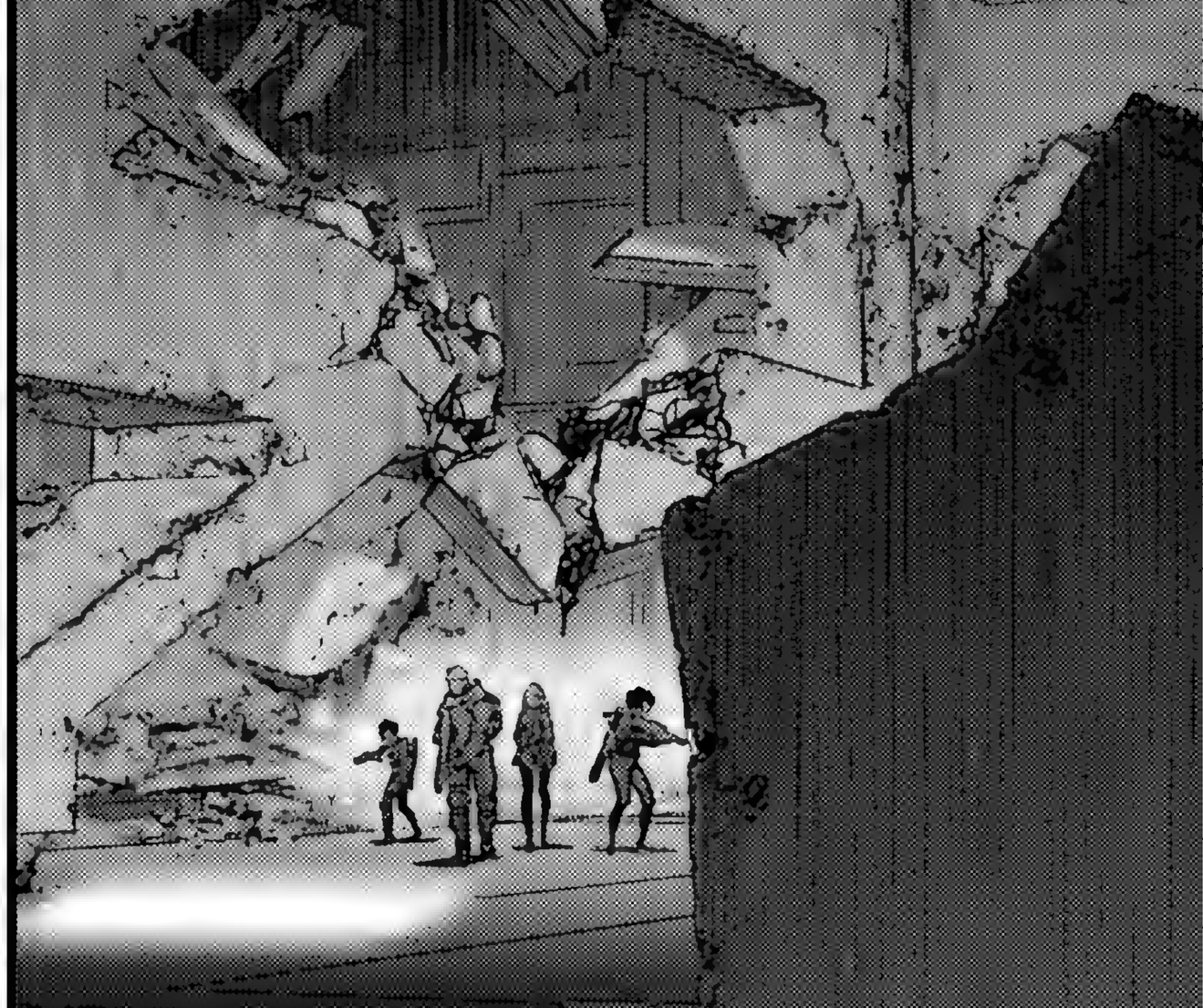
WELL, THERE YOU HAVE IT, AKIRA. I HOPE ***YOU'LL*** LISTEN WHEN I TELL YOU TO DO SOMETHING.

I PROMISE I'LL DO AS I'M TOLD.

CAVE-INS HAVE BLOCKED OFF A LOT OF PAS-SAGES.

IT'S LIKE A MAZE DOWN HERE!





ELENA, WHY DON'T WE LET AKIRA TAKE POINT FOR A BIT?

I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW WELL HE CAN FIGHT BEFORE WE RUN INTO REAL TROUBLE.

YOU GAME?

ALL RIGHT! SHIKARABE, TRADE PLACES WITH AKIRA.

...

I DON'T MIND, BUT IT'S YOUR CALL.

CRYSTAL!

UNDER-STOOD.

SARA, SHIKARABE, BACK HIM UP THE MOMENT YOU DECIDE HE'S IN DANGER.

IS THAT CLEAR?

AKIRA, DON'T TRY ANYTHING RASH.

I WON'T.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? GIVE ME AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.

BEFORE WE GET STARTED, HOW MUCH SUPPORT DO YOU WANT ME TO GIVE YOU?

THAT PLAN MIGHT WORK, BUT IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO ELENA AND SARA.

GIVE ME YOUR FULL SUPPORT ANYWAY.

JUST A SUGGES-TION...

...BUT IF WE HOLD BACK A LITTLE NOW, YOU'LL HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF GETTING ASSIGNED TO SECURITY NEXT TIME.

WITH THAT IN MIND, ARE YOU SURE?

WELL, I FIGURED YOU'D SAY THAT.

YOU GOT IT! I WON'T LET YOU DOWN!

Chapter 27

AKIRA, THERE ARE FOUR YARATA SCORPIONS UP AHEAD.

TAKE THEM OUT BEFORE THEY SPOT US!

BLAM

ON IT!

BLAM

BLAM

AKIRA MUST HAVE A REAL HIGH-END SCANNER IF HE SPOTTED THEM AT THAT RANGE.

...YEAH.

OKAY, GOT 'EM!

WHE

IS IT BECAUSE HE'S AN OLD DOMAIN USER?!

CONTACT LENS DISPLAY

THE SCANNER I SOLD HIM...

...SHOULDN'T BE GOOD ENOUGH TO DETECT SCORPIONS THAT FAR OFF. HOW DID HE DO IT?

BEEP BEEP BEEP

I'VE HEARD THAT USERS CAN LOCATE AND MAP OUT RUINS USING ANCIENT WIRELESS NETWORKS. IS THAT WHAT HE'S DOING?

I'M CURIOUS, BUT I CAN'T JUST COME OUT AND ASK HIM.

WHOA!

CHECK OUT ALL THESE RELICS!

WHAT A FIND!

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT TAKING RELICS WOULD BREACH OUR CONTRACT.

SHE'S RIGHT, AKIRA.

IT'D TAKE YOU THREE LIFETIMES TO WORK OFF THE FINES, SO LET IT GO.

DON'T WORRY, I'LL LEAVE 'EM.

AND DON'T THINK YOU CAN SNEAK A FEW OUT!

IT WON'T WORK.

NOT A CHANCE!

OH, THERE'S A THOUGHT.

YEAH, THAT COULD BE A REAL POSSIBILITY.

WELL, ANYONE WHO DOESN'T WANT THE CITY CARTING OFF THESE RELICS JUST HAS TO MAKE IT DOWN HERE ON THEIR OWN.

REMEMBER THOSE RUMORS A WHILE BACK ABOUT A NORMAL-LOOKING KID WHO BROUGHT HIGH-VALUE RELICS TO AN EXCHANGE?

HEY, THAT'S NOT IT! I WASN'T THINKING OF A WAY TO SNEAK STUFF OUT.

STARE

RING ANY BELLS?

PEOPLE SPECULATED THAT THERE MUST BE AN UNEXPLORED ZONE NEAR THE CITY...

...AND A LOT OF HUNTERS WENT OUT LOOKING FOR IT.

...

WHAT IF THAT KID GOT THEIR RELICS FROM THESE UNDERGROUND STORES?

MAYBE THEY SQUEEZED INTO A HOLE TO ESCAPE A MONSTER AND STUMBLED ON AN ENTRANCE. IT'S POSSIBLE!

CHILL! I JUST FIGURED I MIGHT'VE SOLVED A MYSTERY.

YOU'D BETTER NOT BE THINKING OF SMUGGLING RELICS OUT OF THIS OTHER EXIT.

FORGET IT! WE WENT ON THAT WILD GOOSE CHASE TOO. THAT'S ALL.

WHAT'S GOT YOU SO GROUCHY?

STILL, SOMETHING AWFUL MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO MAKE IT SUCH A SENSITIVE SUBJECT.

YEAH, PRETTY MUCH.

YOU TOO, AKIRA?

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

ALTHOUGH I MIGHT NOT HAVE SAID SO AT THE TIME.

HOW ABOUT YOU, ELENA?

YEAH, SOME OF IT WAS HORRIBLE, BUT IT WASN'T ALL BAD.

IN HIND-SIGHT, I'M GLAD WE WENT TO THE RUINS THAT DAY!

THAT'S MY TAKE-AWAY.

YOU KNOW...

...I AGREE. I'M GLAD WE WENT.

THAT'S FOR SURE.

RIGHT?

AND I FEEL LIKE WE'VE BEEN LUCKIER EVER SINCE.

?

WELL, I GUESS I'M GLAD I WENT TOO.

WHAT'S YOUR TAKE, AKIRA?

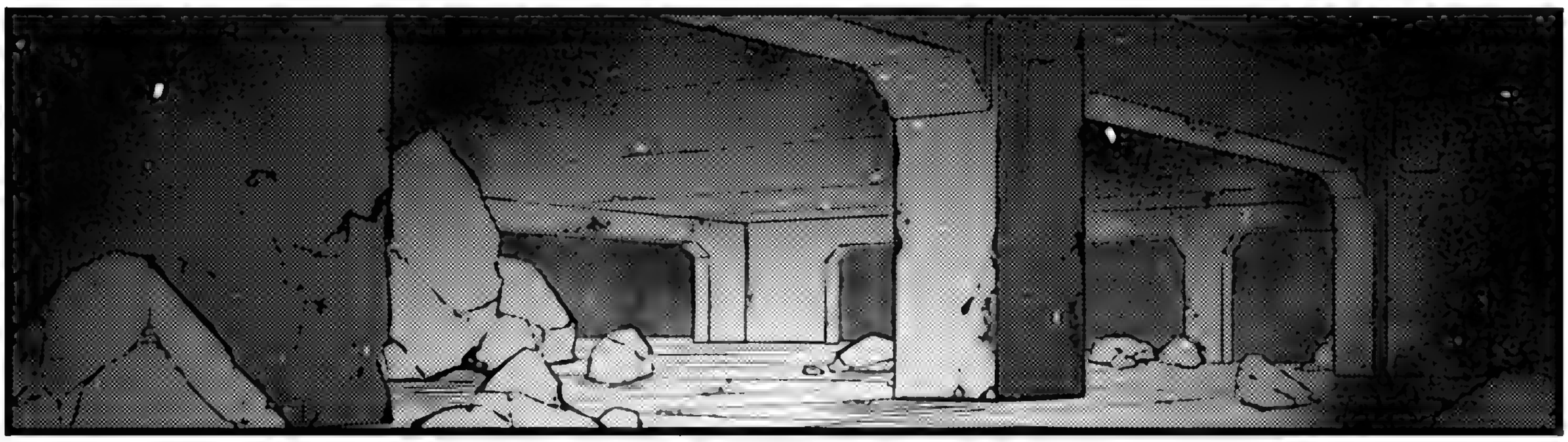
...

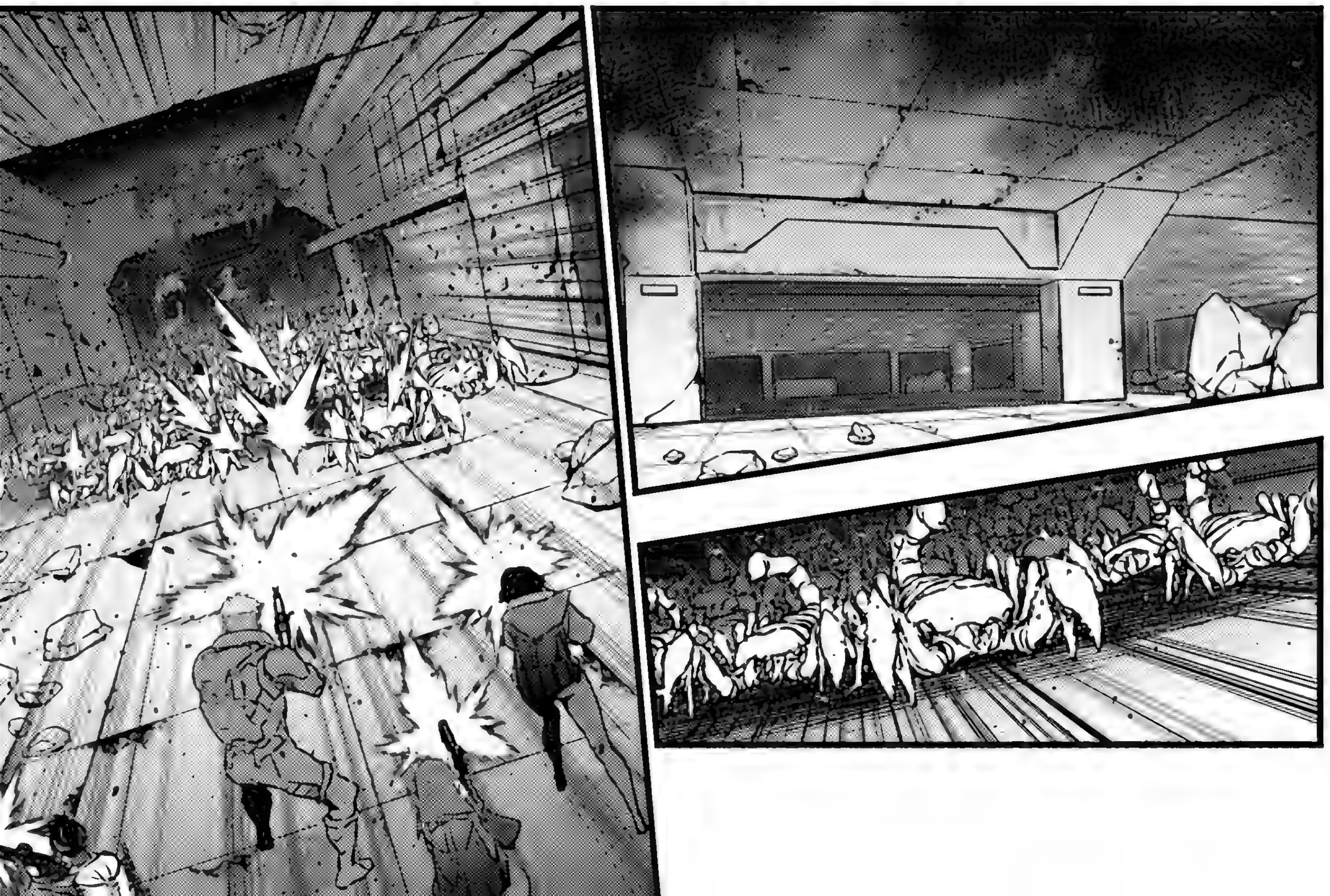
AKIRA, LET ME TAKE POINT. I'M GONNA VENT MY FRUSTRA-TION ON THE MONSTERS!

DRUNCAM HAD ME BRING THE ROOKIES TO JOIN IN THAT RELIC HUNT, AND YOU WOULDN'T ***BELIEVE*** THE HEADACHE I HAD CLEANING UP AFTER THOSE IDIOTS.

WHAT, SO ***I'M*** THE ONLY ONE WHO BUSTED HIS ASS FOR NOTHING?!

JUST REMEM-BERING IT PISSES ME OFF!





ARE WE NEAR A MAJOR NEST?

THESE SWARMS KEEP GETTING BIGGER!

LET'S TURN BACK FOR NOW. WE'VE GATHERED A LOT OF TERRAIN DATA.

PLUS, WE'RE ABOUT TO HIT OUR MINIMUM EXPEDITION TIME.

GOOD IDEA.

THAT'S STRANGE.

YES, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.

THE PROBLEM IS...

!!!

THE PASSAGE IS BLOCKED WITH DEBRIS. IT LOOKS LIKE A CAVE-IN.

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

BUT WE CAN GO AROUND, RIGHT?

...WE'VE ALREADY TAKEN THREE DETOURS.

I DON'T WANNA GET BURIED ALIVE.

MAYBE ANOTHER RECON TEAM GOT INTO A FIGHT AND SET OFF EXPLOSIVES IN A WEAK AREA.

...

AKIRA.

GOOD IDEA. WE SHOULD HURRY!

LET'S FIND A NEW WAY AROUND WHILE WE'VE STILL GOT AMMO AND ENERGY.

SO GOOD CALL, TURNING BACK EARLY.

STOP THE OTHERS AND URGE THEM TO TAKE THE SHORTEST ROUTE.

ELENA! DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?!

WHAT'S WRONG, AKIRA?

NOW, LET'S GO.

I'D LIKE TO INVESTIGATE THE RUBBLE BLOCKING THE SHORTEST ROUTE TO CHECKPOINT 19.

IT'S A BLOCKAGE THAT WASN'T THERE BEFORE.

SHOULDN'T WE CHECK IT OUT AS SOON AS WE CAN?

?

ALL RIGHT, LET'S TAKE A LOOK.

I'M GUESSING THIS IS TOO URGENT TO EXPLAIN RIGHT NOW?

YES.

HEY! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S UP, BUT AT LEAST GIVE ME A REASON!

FOLLOW ME!

LATER! YOU PROMISED TO FOL-LOW MY ORDERS!

SHUT UP OR STAY BEHIND!

DASH

YOU'D BETTER HAVE A GOOD EXPLA-NATION!

SWITCH TO YOUR CWH.

YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE GLAD THAT YOUR CLIENT'S STILL PAYING FOR YOUR AMMO!

SO YOUR HUNCH WAS RIGHT?

PRETTY MUCH!

DASH!!

DASH!!

SLIDE

AKIRA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

THAT'S NOT DEBRIS!

BLAM!!

YARATA SCORPIONS!

THEY DISGUISED THEMSELVES AS A CAVE-IN?!

ガキン
ガキン
チャキ

カッ

カタカタ

カタカタ

カタカタ

カタカタ

カタカタ

カタカタ

カタカタ

ELENA, I THINK WE SHOULD HURRY BACK TO CHECKPOINT 19!

OR AT LEAST GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO CONTACT THEM.

I AGREE.

AT WORST, WE MIGHT ALREADY BE SURROUNDED. I'D LIKE TO BREAK THROUGH BEFORE THEY REALLY DIG IN.

SARA, SHIKARABE, TAKE POINT.

AKIRA, YOU'LL GUARD OUR REAR.

GO!

WE SHOULD ASSUME THERE'S A SCORPION SWARM ANYWHERE THE TERRAIN HAS SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED. I WANT YOU TWO TO DISPERSE THEM AS WE GO.

WE'LL MATCH YOUR PACE, BUT TRY TO KEEP MOVING FAST.

RIGHT!

THEN LET'S GET MOVING.

WATCH OUR BACKS, OKAY, AKIRA?

WELL, I GUESS THIS IS BETTER THAN HUNTING FOR AN EXIT!

SARA! LOOK OUT ABOVE!

KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK

KA KA KA

KA-BOOM

SHIKARABE! THAT HEAP'S ANOTHER SWARM!

WHRRRRRRR

FURA FURA

SWASH

KA

TA

KA

TA

THWACK

THWACK

CRAAASH

WHOA...!

STOP GAWKING AND PULL YOUR WEIGHT!

BLAM

I FEEL LIKE I JUST DID THIS YESTERDAY!

THEN YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT TO DO!

AND UNLIKE YESTERDAY, RETREAT *IS* AN OPTION.

BLAM

THEN THERE CAN'T BE MUCH DIFFERENCE.

WHICH MEANS YOU CAN COME OUT ON TOP, JUST LIKE YOU DID YESTERDAY!

SO, IS THIS EASIER OR HARDER?! MAKE UP YOUR MIND!

ALTHOUGH THIS PASSAGE IS ALSO A BIT WIDER.

WHICH DO YOU THINK?

GLAD TO HEAR IT!

HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW?!

HE'S SMILING!

I THOUGHT I COULD BE IMPARTIAL, BUT MAYBE WORKING WITH THOSE BRATS HAS MADE ME TAKE YOUNG HUNTERS LESS SERIOUSLY.

BUT WHY DO MY INSTINCTS TELL ME HE'S NOTHING SPECIAL?

I'M IMPRESSED. IF HE'S THIS CAPABLE, NO WONDER HQ VOUCHED FOR HIM!

IF SO, I'D BETTER WATCH OUT!

THIS IS RECON TEAM 9. COME IN, CHECKPOINT 19!

THIS IS CHECKPOINT 19. ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY BACK?

I'LL GIVE YOU THE DETAILS WHEN WE GET BACK. OVER.

ROGER THAT. CHECKPOINT 19 OUT.

GIVEN ITS SIZE, IT MUST HAVE COME FROM A MAJOR NEST.

YES. AND UNTIL A MINUTE AGO, WE WERE FIGHTING A LARGE SCORPION SWARM.

WE'RE ABOUT TO RETURN, BUT WATCH OUT IN CASE THEY FOLLOW US.

WE'RE IN THE CLEAR!

NOW WE CAN RELAX AND HEAD BACK AT OUR OWN PACE.

CHECKPOINT 19

...AND YOU THOUGHT THAT MIGHT BE WHAT WAS BLOCKING THE TUNNEL.

I SEE. SO YOU'D SEEN SCORPIONS POSE AS RUBBLE BEFORE...

BUT WE'D ALL DEFINITELY HAVE THOUGHT LESS OF YOU.

I'D HAVE BEEN RELIEVED WE HAD ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT.

THAT'S ALL.

BUT WHAT IF YOU'D BEEN WRONG?

I'LL BET. SORRY, BUT IF I LET YOU DOWN, JUST COMPLAIN TO HQ AND HAVE ME REPLACED.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL YOU. I JUST FOLLOWED MY INSTINCTS.

WAS THAT *REALLY* YOUR ONLY REASON?

YOU JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE, AND YOU DIDN'T CARE IF YOU WERE WRONG?

THAT'S NOT HOW YOU LOOKED TO ME.

I GUESS I CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT.

INSTINCTS, HUH?

GO AHEAD. BYE!

SEE YOU!

SORRY, ELENA, BUT DO YOU MIND IF I CLOCK OUT NOW?

I'VE GOT A REPORT TO WRITE.

OH WELL! YOU WERE RIGHT, SO WHO CARES?

MR. SHIKA-RABE?

I WISH TO ASK YOU SOME-THING.

MAY I HAVE A FEW MOMENTS OF YOUR TIME?

Chapter 28

THEN I'LL BE BRIEF.

WHATEVER YOU WANNA ASK, MAKE IT QUICK.

I'M BUSIER THAN I LOOK.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF MR. AKIRA?

I'M ASHAMED TO ADMIT THAT I DISGRACED MYSELF BY SQUABBLING WITH MR. AKIRA YESTERDAY.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

ARE YOU HOPING I'LL SAY I WISH WE'D TAKEN KATSUYA'S TEAM INSTEAD?

...I WISH TO FORM AN ACCURATE IMPRESSION OF HIS COMPETENCY.

TO AVOID REPEATING MY BLUNDER...

JUST DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID, AND YOU'LL HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

I...

...MISJUDGED WHAT HE WAS CAPABLE OF.

YOU WANT MY TAKE ON AKIRA?

WELL, HE'S NOT ON MY LEVEL, BUT HE WAS ABLE TO PULL HIS OWN WEIGHT.

...

GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU?

THAT'S HOW I FEEL AFTER WATCHING HIM FIGHT.

IF YOU WERE TO JUDGE PURELY BASED ON THEIR INDIVIDUAL COMPETENCY...

...WOULD YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENT DECISION?

A VARIETY OF CIRCUMSTANCES LED YOU TO TAKE MR. AKIRA WITH YOU RATHER THAN MR. KATSUYA.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MY INSTINCTS TELL ME KATSUYA IS STRONGER.

AND I'LL ADMIT HE'S SKILLED, IF NOTHING ELSE.

I DON'T WANT YOU MAKING TOO MUCH OF MY ANSWER, SO I'LL LEAVE IT AT THAT.

MY INSTINCTS ARE STILL TELLING ME KATSUYA IS STRONGER THAN AKIRA.

BUT COULD KATSUYA HAVE DONE WHAT HE DID OUT THERE?

APPARENTLY, HE PERFORMED HIS DUTIES ADEQUATELY AND WITHOUT HINDERING HIS TEAMMATES.

A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT MR. AKIRA, WHO TOOK YOUR PLACES ON THE RECON TEAM.

WHAT DID YOU ASK HIM, SHIORI?

I ALSO CONCUR.

"AND I'LL ADMIT HE'S SKILLED, IF NOTHING ELSE."

HE SAID, "MY INSTINCTS TELL ME KATSUYA IS STRONGER."

DID SHIKARABE SAY ANYTHING ELSE?

R-REALLY? THANK YOU!

STRONGER THAN AKIRA? I KNEW YOU WERE GREAT, KATSUYA!

...

NO WAY!

I THOUGHT YOU MADE IT LOOK EASY.

YOU REALLY FOUND IT *THAT* HARD?

I WAS BARELY HANGING IN THERE. I'M NOT READY TO WORK RECON YET!

THAT WOULD PROBABLY GET YOU REASSIGNED TO SECURITY.

WELL, I'M THE LEADER OF RECON TEAM 9, SO I COULD ALWAYS REPORT THAT YOU WERE USELESS.

STUNNED

YES, PLEASE!

YOU'LL DEFINITELY EARN MORE WORKING RECON OR EXTERMINATION. AND IT'LL LOOK BETTER ON YOUR RESUME.

ARE YOU SURE, AKIRA?

I DON'T MIND!

REALLY? A LOT OF PEOPLE MUST HAVE A DEATH WISH.

YOU'RE QUITE THE ODDBALL!

YOU KNOW, MOST PEOPLE WANT A ***BETTER*** REPORT THAN THEY DESERVE.

YARATA SCORPION EXTERMI-NATION DAY 3

WELL, YOU GOT THE SECURITY JOB YOU WANTED!

ELENA MUST'VE COME THROUGH FOR ME!

カシャ CLICK

カシャ CLACK

STILL, I'M SURPRISED THEY HAVE THIS MANY HUNTERS...

...JUST PUTTING UP NEW LIGHTING.

IF THE SCORPIONS TUNNEL THROUGH A WALL AGAIN, THEY'LL DETECT IT.

THESE LIGHTS ALSO FUNCTION AS SCANNERS.

CLICK
CLACK

...SO THE CITY MUST HAVE GOTTEN SERIOUS ABOUT RETRIEVING THEM.

AND THE RELICS FOUND DEEPER IN THE TUNNELS TURNED OUT TO BE SURPRISINGLY VALUABLE...

WELL, THAT EXPLAINS IT.

ANYWAY, PUTTING UP LIGHTS OUGHTA BE SAFE.

BY THE WAY, WHERE ARE THE OTHER HUNTERS WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO JOIN ME?

IS SOME-THING UP?

AKIRA, BE ON YOUR GUARD!

THERE'S A SUSPICIOUS, ARMED INDIVIDUAL IN THAT DIRECTION.

YOUR WORK TERMINALS TRACK EACH OTHER'S LOCATIONS.

YEAH, I KNOW. SO WHAT?

AND WE ALL CARRY GUNS.

COME ON! WHAT'S SO WEIRD ABOUT ANOTHER HUNTER DOWN HERE?

THIS PERSON ISN'T TRANSMITTING THAT DATA.

EITHER THEIR TERMINAL IS BROKEN...

...THEY DISABLED IT DELIBERATELY...

...OR THEY DON'T HAVE A WORK TERMINAL AT ALL.

ARE YOU WILLING TO BET THAT IT'S JUST MALFUNCTIONING?

I'LL GIVE YOU A VIEW IN AR.

SO, THEY DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO KNOW WHERE THEY ARE?

THIS IS 27. COME IN, HQ!

I'VE FOUND SOMEONE I THINK IS A HUNTER, BUT I CAN'T SHARE LOCATION DATA WITH THEM. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

ALL RIGHT, BUT IT COULD BE A TERMINAL MALFUNCTION. GO CHECK.

AND WHAT IF IT'S NOT?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE ME, BUT I'M NOT GONNA DO ANYTHING UNLESS YOU TELL ME TO.

ARE YOU SURE?

IF POSSIBLE, BRING THEM TO HQ.

IF THEY RESIST, YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO USE ANY MEANS NECESSARY, REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME.

REPORT IN AS THE SITUATION DEVELOPS. HQ OUT.

HAAA!! SIGH

...ROGER THAT.

THEY JUST AUTHORIZED YOU TO KILL, SO DON'T HESITATE IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY.

I WASN'T IMAGINING THAT, HUH?

INHALE

SURE. YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS!

ALPHA, BACK ME UP IF THIS GOES WRONG.

!

YOUR TERMI-NAL'S NOT RESPOND-ING! IS IT BROKEN?!

HEEEY!

THAT'S DANGER-OUS!

?

IS HE TRY-
ING TO TELL
ME IT'S A
MALFUNC-
TION?

イラ
GLANCE

TMP
ヨッ

コッ
TMP

コッ
TMP

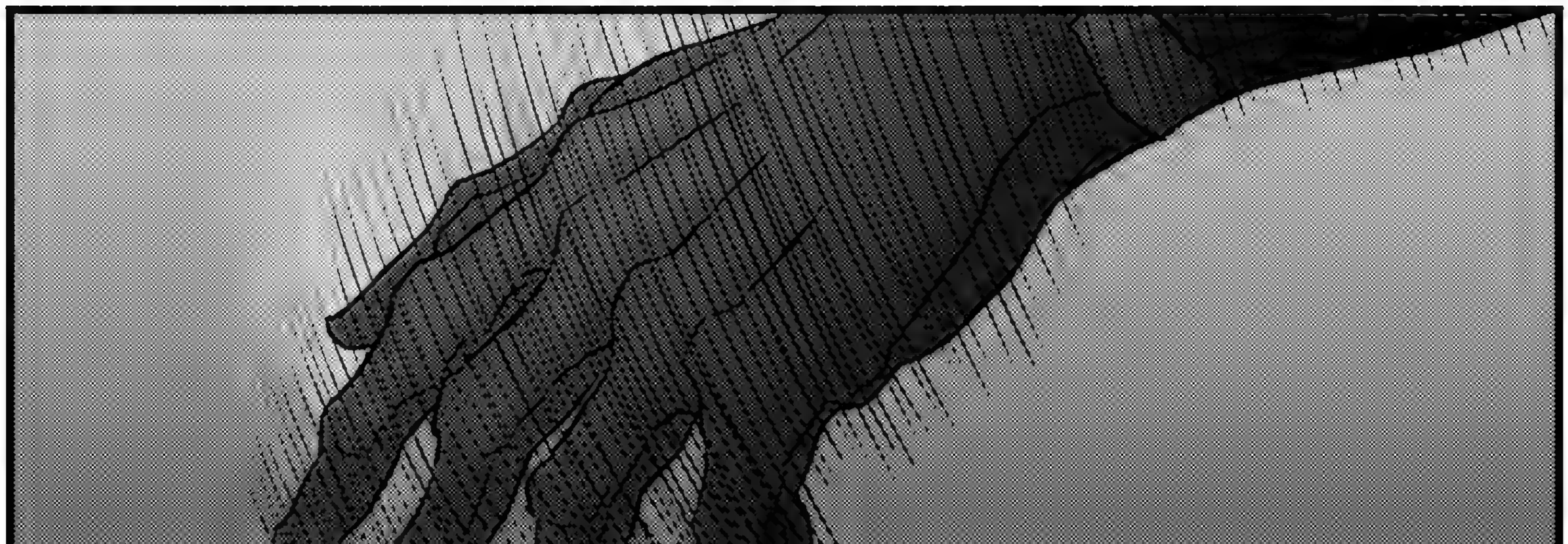
KAISE

チャ!!
CHAK

チラ GLANCE

ユイ TMP

ホッ PHEW



KA-

BLAM

ッパ

HE DODGED?!

AKIRA!

AKIRA! SNAP OUT OF IT!

I'M ALIVE

NGH!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

...YEAH.

SLIP...

I FORCED YOU TO MOVE USING YOUR SUIT.

YOUR BONES AREN'T BROKEN, THOUGH.

OH, RIGHT!

SORRY. I COULDN'T MOVE!

IT'S FINE! HAVING YOUR BACK AT TIMES LIKE THIS IS PART OF MY JOB.

REMEM-BER?

ALPHA, WHAT'S OUR SITUATION?

I RETURNED FIRE, BUT HE'S UNHARMED.

HE PROBABLY CHOSE HIS FIRING POSITION WHILE CONSIDERING THAT HE MIGHT FAIL TO KILL YOU.

THE ENEMY IS SKILLED.

HIS GEAR AND TRAINING ARE PROBABLY TAILORED FOR KILLING HUMANS, NOT MONSTERS.

WHAT'S A GUY LIKE THAT DOING DOWN HERE?

SO HE WENT ALL-OUT TO KILL A KID LIKE ME?

MY TERMI-NAL...?

IS BROKEN. WE CAN'T CONTACT HQ.

OF COURSE.

OKAY, I'M UP TO SPEED. SO, CAN I BEAT HIM?

THE MOMENT HIS SNEAK ATTACK FAILED...

...HIS LUCK RAN OUT!

GLAD TO HEAR IT!

SURE IT WILL— IF YOU DON'T MIND GETTING YOUR ARMS AND LEGS TORN OFF.

EXPENSIVE IT IS!

TAKE SOME RECOVERY CAPSULES NOW. THE EXPENSIVE KIND.

I'M ALMOST OUT OF OLD WORLD MEDS, BUT SAVING THEM WON'T HELP ME IF I'M DEAD.

YOU'RE SURE THE CHEAP STUFF WON'T CUT IT?

YEAH.

OKAY. TIME FOR OUR COUNTER-ATTACK!

ARE YOU READY, AKIRA?

THAT'S MY END OF OUR DEAL!

DASH!

BUT HE STILL DODGED! WHO IS HE, AND WHAT THE HELL KIND OF REFLEXES DOES HE HAVE?

WHAT IS SOMEONE ON HIS LEVEL DOING HERE?

I CAUGHT HIM TOTALLY OFF GUARD.

AND I DIDN'T SCREW UP MY QUICK-DRAW.

DID THEY SEND A SKILLED CYBORG OPERATIVE IN A CHILD-SIZED BODY?

COULD HE BE A MUNICIPAL AGENT?

HAS THE CITY CAUGHT ON TO OUR PLAN?

IT'S ME. YAJIMA.

CHANGE OF PLANS. FINISH THAT HOLE TO THE SURFACE ASAP.

EITHER WAY, HE'S A THREAT. I'D BETTER MAKE THIS QUICK!

QUIT WHINING! YOU KNEW WE WERE PICKING A FIGHT WITH THE CITY WHEN WE DECIDED TO ROB IT.

GOT THAT? THEN MOVE THOSE RELICS!

SEND KAIN AND NELIA TO MY POSITION.

THE CITY MAY BE ON TO US. I'LL TELL YOU MORE LATER.

WE'VE GOT TO GET THE RELICS OUT OF HERE BEFORE ALL THOSE SCANNER-LIGHTS ARE IN PLACE!

SHIT! THIS WAS GOING SO WELL. MY BUDDIES INFILTRATED THE SECURITY TEAM AND EVEN MANAGED TO HIDE THE LOOT.

I'LL START BY SILENCING THAT HUNTER. FOR GOOD.

SWIP

BLAM

REBUILD WORLD

Chapter 29

SKRRT

BAM!!

CRASH

CRMBL

CRMBL

IT'S COM-PLICATED, BUT I CAN EXPLAIN!

WAIT! DON'T SHOOT!

SORRY! I THOUGHT YOU WERE AN ENEMY!

I'LL KEEP SHOOTING THE PILLAR UNTIL I FLUSH HIM OUT AND THEN NAIL HIM!

WHY'S HE BOTHERING TO BULLSHIT ME NOW?

WHICHEVER WAY HE GOES, I'LL SEE HIM!

COME ON! WE CAN TALK THIS OUT!

CALL HQ IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME!

I'M A HUNTER ON THE RECON TEAM!

TALK ABOUT TOUGH! OLD WORLD CONSTRUCTION IS SOMETHING ELSE!

BUT IT CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE.

SO KEEP BLASTING AWAY!

THEY'LL CLEAR THINGS UP!

KASMASH

...

THIS PILLAR IS ABOUT TO GIVE UP THE GHOST.

CRASH

HE'S PROBABLY USING SOME KIND OF ANTI-MATERIEL WARHEAD. MAYBE CWH PROPRIETARY AMMO.

NO DEMAND FOR SURRENDER OR ANY OTHER ATTEMPT TO BRING ME IN ALIVE.

DOES THAT MEAN HE'S NOT AN AGENT FOR THE CITY, THEN?

CRACK

CRACK

...BUT I KNOW HE'S TOTING AN OVERSIZED RIFLE, AND THAT'S ALL THE INFO I NEED.

I CAN'T GUESS WHY HE BROUGHT THAT LEVEL OF FIREPOWER...

OKAY, I'M IN THE CLEAR. KILLING THIS GUY WILL BUY ME PLENTY OF TIME.

MY NEXT SHOT WILL BREAK THROUGH!

チャキ

CHAK

ザシュ

SLASH

WOOSH!

WITH A RIFLE THAT BULKY, HE CAN'T ADJUST HIS AIM IN TIME.

JUST LIKE I PLANNED!

I'LL BLOW HIS BRAINS OUT BEFORE HE HAS ME IN HIS SIGHTS!

WHAT?!

HE ALREADY SWITCHED GUNS?!

KU

WOO WOO WOO

WHO IS THAT GUY?

I KNOW I CAUGHT HIM OFF GUARD, BUT HE INSTANTLY RETURNED FIRE.

HE SEEMS SHOCKED, BUT HE REACTED IMMEDI-ATELY.

HOW CAN HIS ACTIONS BE SO OUT OF SYNC WITH HIS EXPRESSION?

AND LOOK AT HIS FACE!

COULD HE BE THE SAME AS ME?!

HE SHRUGGED OFF OVER-PRESSURE AMMO? THAT GUY CAN SURE TAKE A BEATING!

CHAK

THE AAH COULDN'T DO MUCH DAMAGE TO HIM, I'M SORRY TO SAY.

HOW'D WE DO, ALPHA?

BAM

BOOM

KA

BOOM

BETWEEN THAT AND THE CWH, HE'S SERIOUSLY OVER-EQUIPPED FOR THIS AREA.

HE MUST BE USING A HIGH-END SCANNER.

HIS AIM IS RIDICULOUSLY PRECISE.

DOES THAT MEAN HE KNOWS ABOUT THEM?

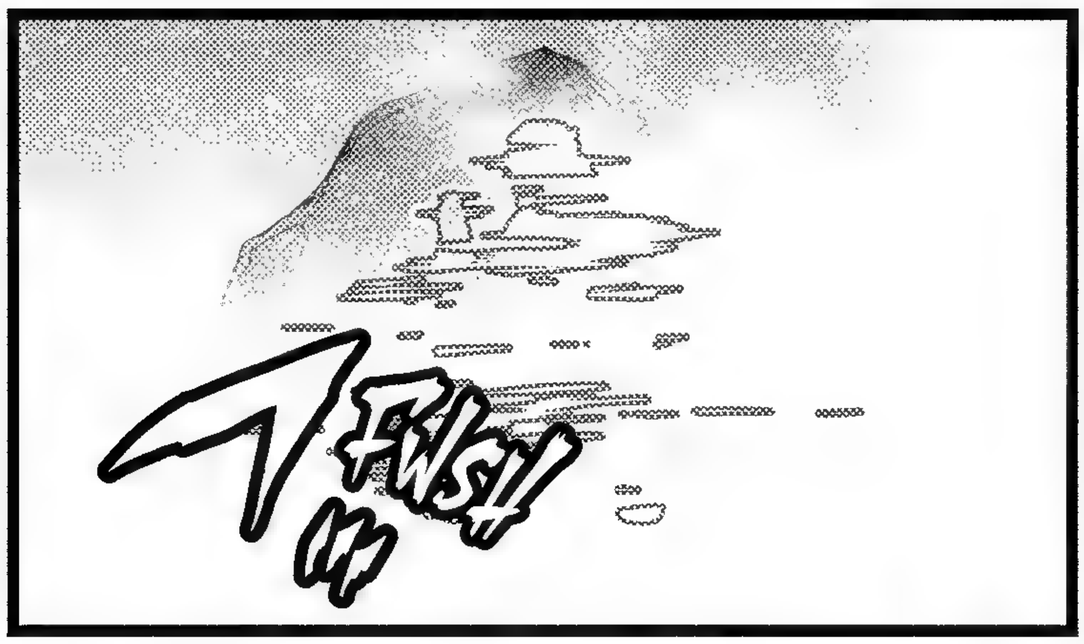
DID HE EXPECT TO NEED ALL THIS FIRE-POWER?

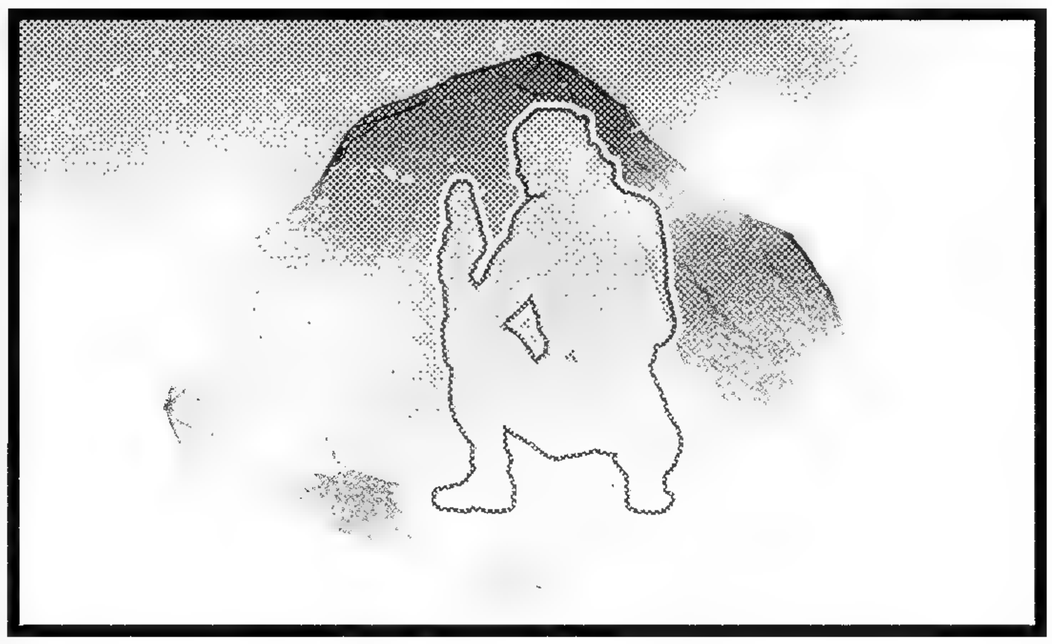
DON'T TELL ME...

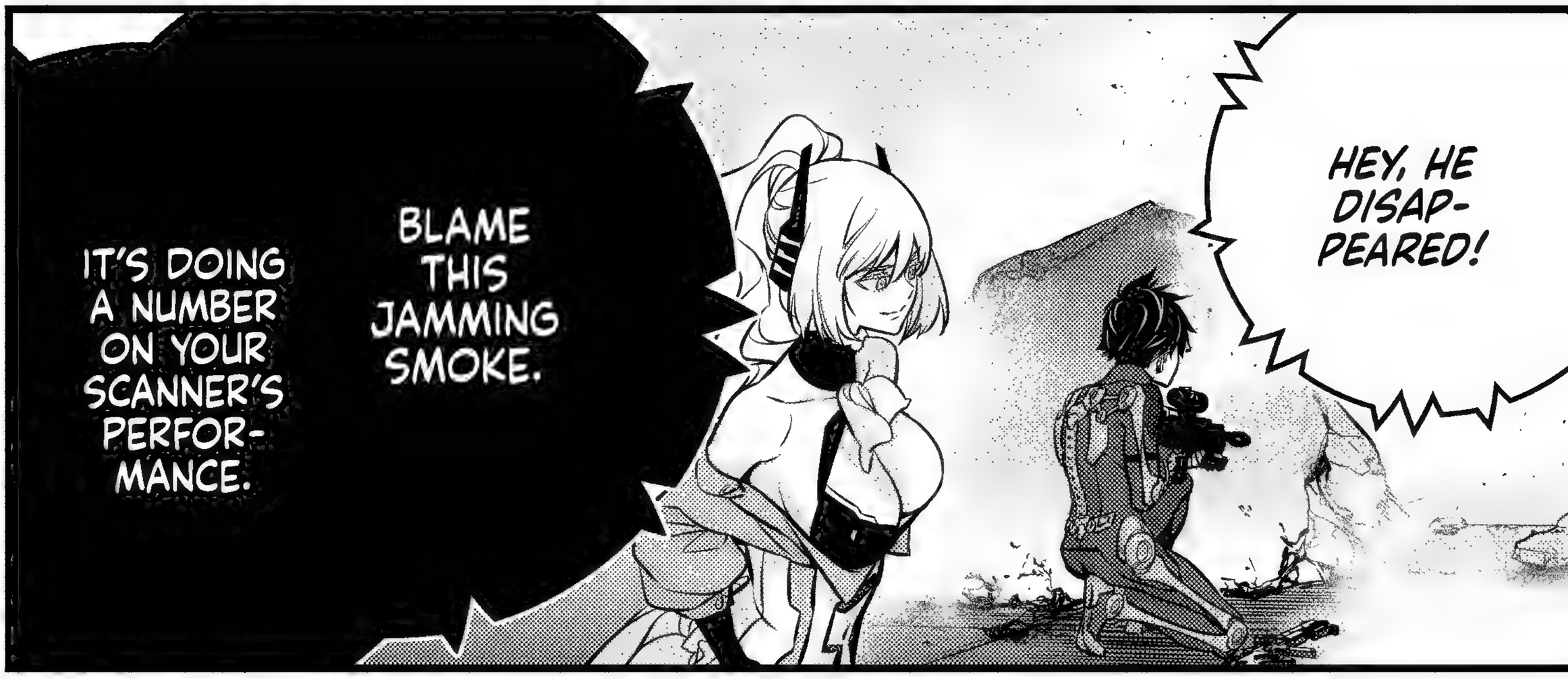
TOSS

DAMN IT! I DIDN'T WANT TO ATTRACT ATTENTION BY USING THIS, BUT I'VE GOT NO CHOICE NOW.

FFFSSS


FWSH!!




IT'S DOING A NUMBER ON YOUR SCANNER'S PERFOR-MANCE.
BLAME THIS JAMMING SMOKE.
HEY, HE DISAP-PEARED!

IS HE PLANNING TO RUN FOR IT?
BUT THEN HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SEE ME EITHER.

JAMMING SMOKE CAN BE FORMU-LATED...

...TO LEAVE SELECTED TRACKING METHODS MOSTLY UNIMPAIRED.

IF HIS SCANNER IS TUNED TO MATCH HIS SMOKE...

...THEN YOU SHOULD ASSUME HE CAN TARGET YOU ALMOST AS WELL AS BEFORE.

YOU MEAN...

...I CAN'T SEE HIM, BUT HE CAN SEE ME?

BOOM

KABOOM

THEN HE MUST NOT HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE I AM.

I TOOK OUT HIS SENSORS...

IS HE TRYING TO BLOW UP EVERYTHING I COULD HIDE BEHIND?

...BUT I CAN STILL SEE HIM IN THIS SMOKE.

SO IF I CIRCLE TO HIS REAR, HE CAN'T HIT ME EVEN WITH A LUCKY SHOT.

OKAY. I'M IN POSITION!

THIS TIME, HE DIES FOR CERTAIN.

...

I THOUGHT I HAD HIM TWICE, AND HE TURNED THE TABLES.

KEEP CALM. DON'T RUSH THIS.

HIS OVERSIZED RIFLE IS A LIABILITY AT CLOSE RANGE.

IF I DART IN AND ATTACK HIM POINT-BLANK, I CAN END THIS.

I'LL STRIKE RIGHT AFTER HE FIRES.

NO...

RIGHT AS HE PULLS THE TRIGGER!

AND WITH THIS SOUPED-UP CARTRIDGE, I CAN BLOW HIS BRAINS OUT EVEN IF THEY'RE ARMORED LIKE A TANK.

CLENK

LUNGE.

YOU'RE MINE!

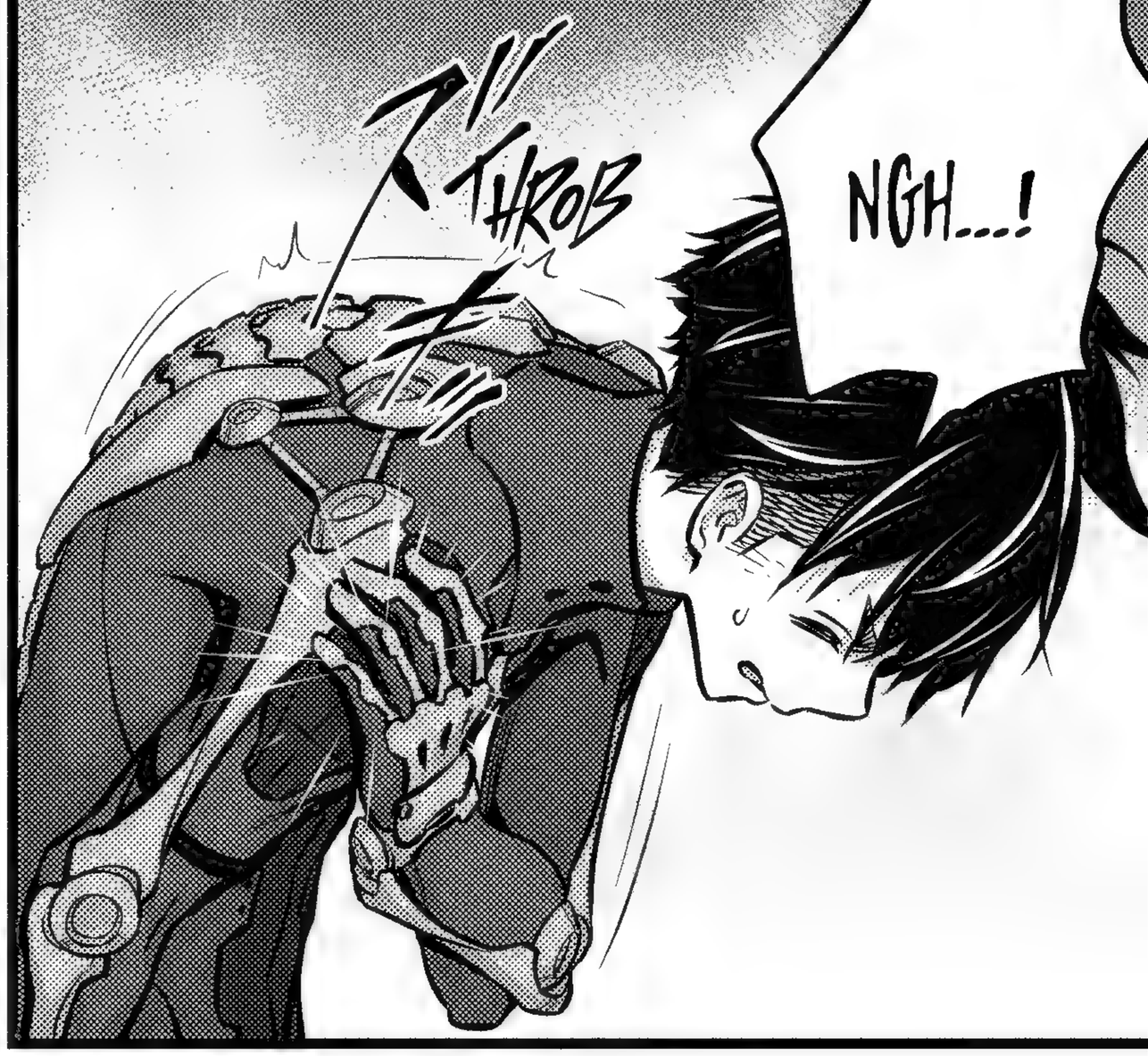
NO...
WAY...

I'M SURE
HE LOST
TRACK
OF ME.

THUD

I COULD SEE YOU.

REVERSE-ENGINEERING YOUR JAMMING SMOKE WAS A PIECE OF CAKE FOR ME.


NGH...!
THROB

THAT DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU MEAN BY "BEAT."
HE'S A CYBORG, HUH?
DID WE BEAT HIM?

BUT IF YOU'RE STILL WORRIED, FINISH HIM OFF WITH A SHOT TO THE HEAD.
BY DESTROY-ING HIS ARM AND PISTOL, WE DEFANGED HIM.

PUPPETS LIKE THAT DON'T ALWAYS DIE FROM DECAPITATION, SO I PRIORITIZED DISARMING HIM.

FOR SAFETY. HIS CYBORG BODY COULD HAVE BEEN OPERATED REMOTELY.

WHY DIDN'T YOU AIM FOR HIS HEAD IN THE FIRST PLACE?

...I CAN SEE THROUGH MOST LIES BY ANALYZING CHANGES IN EXPRESSION OR TONE OF VOICE.

YOU SEE...

I GOT MY BIGGEST CLUE WHEN YOU FIRST MET HIM. HE WAS TOO GOOD AT LYING WITH HIS FACE.

HOW'D YOU FIGURE OUT HE WASN'T FLESH AND BLOOD?

SFX: CLANG

THEN HOW COME YOU DIDN'T WARN ME I WAS ABOUT TO GET SHOT?

BECAUSE HE FOOLED ME TOO.

...FOR CYBORGS AND ANDROIDS.

AND THAT LEVEL OF CONTROL IS ONLY POSSIBLE...

SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS!

BUT HE WAS LYING.

NOTHING IN HIS EXPRESSION SUGGESTED FALSEHOOD.

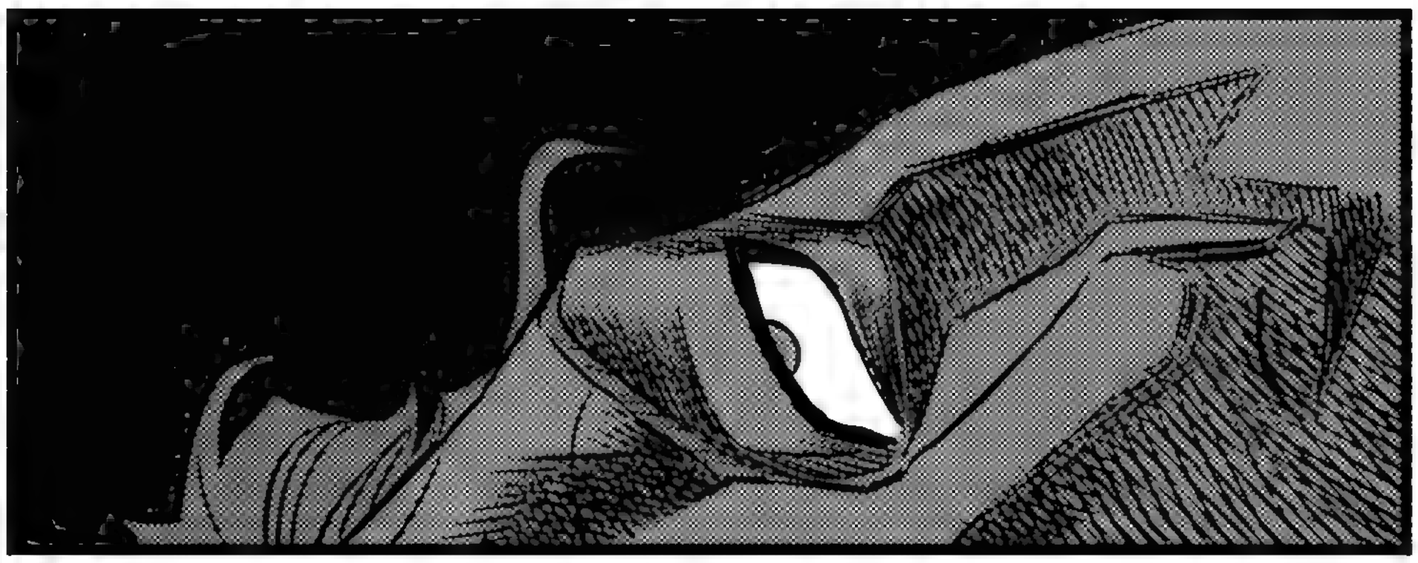
IN OTHER WORDS, HE CAN COMPLETELY DECOUPLE HIS FACE FROM HIS THOUGHTS.

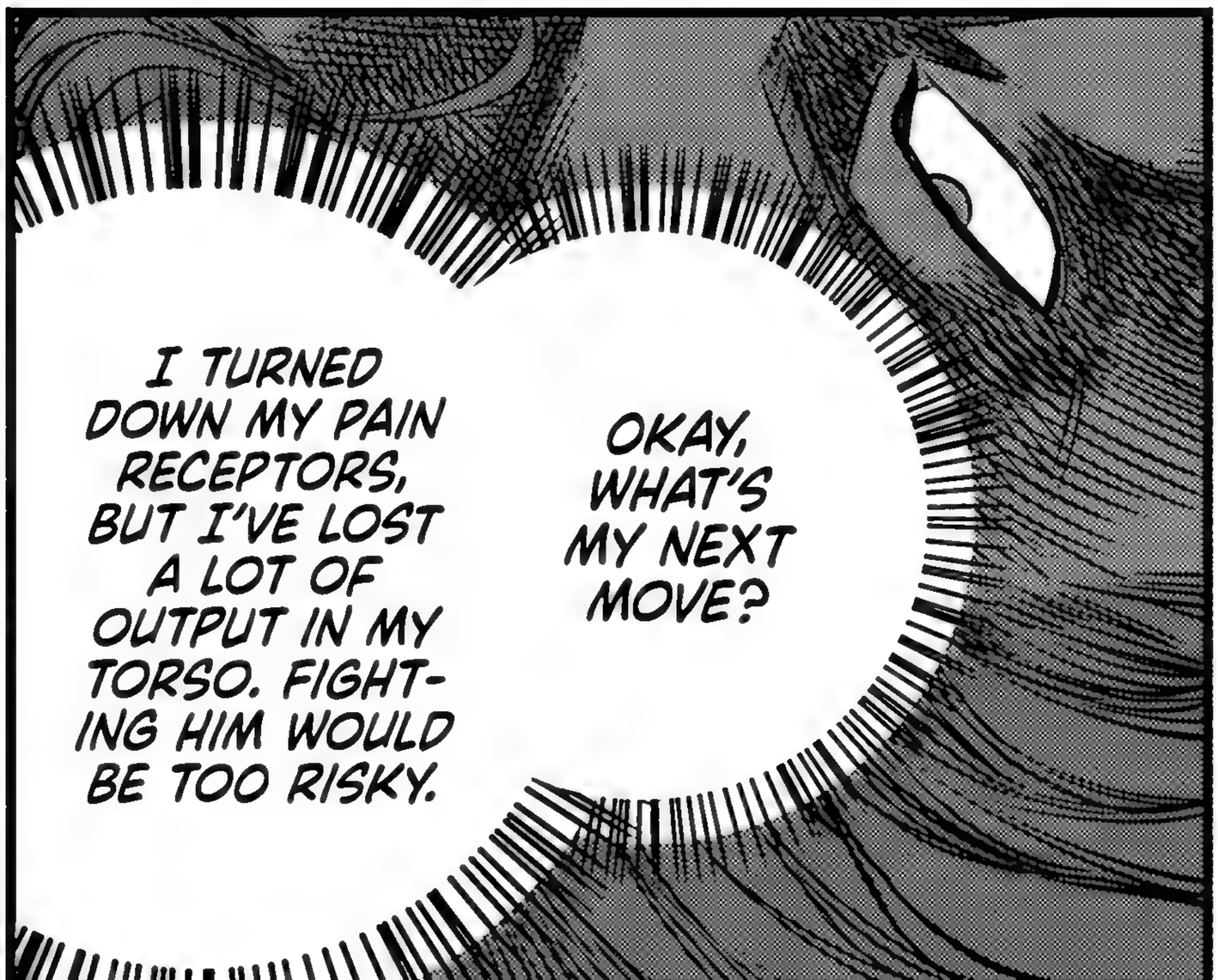
TAKOB

GOOD IDEA!

NOW, LET'S DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH HIM.

SHOULD I BUY TIME UNTIL MY BACKUP GETS HERE?




I TURNED DOWN MY PAIN RECEPTORS, BUT I'VE LOST A LOT OF OUTPUT IN MY TORSO. FIGHTING HIM WOULD BE TOO RISKY.
OKAY, WHAT'S MY NEXT MOVE?

STOP...

WHY'D YOU ATTACK ME?

L-LIKE I SAID, IT WAS A MISUNDER-STANDING.

YOU BEAT ME. DON'T SHOOT.

IT'LL ALL MAKE SENSE IF YOU'LL JUST LISTEN.

PLEASE, HEAR ME OUT.

THOUGH HE DOES WANT YOU TO LISTEN, HE'S LYING ABOUT A MISUNDER-STANDING.

HE REALLY DOESN'T WANT TO GET SHOT, BUT HIS PLEADING IS AN ACT.

THINK HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH, ALPHA?

HE'S TRYING EITHER TO FOOL YOU OR TO BUY TIME.

IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT! YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME!

STALLING?! NO WAY!

I'M NOT LYING!

STALLING, HUH?

HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU NEED TO SAVE YOUR SKIN?

...

THAT'S A LIE.

IN THAT CASE, BLAST HIS REMAINING LIMBS OFF, JUST TO BE SAFE.

GOOD IDEA.

HMM...

HQ TOLD ME TO BRING HIM IN IF I COULD, SO I MIGHT AS WELL.

THEY CAN PROBABLY LEARN A LOT FROM HIM IF THEY GET HIM ALIVE.

SHIT. THIS IS THE LAST OF THE GOOD STUFF.

ARE YOU HURT?

ACHE

AH! MY ARM'S KILLING ME.

TAKE PLENTY OF MEDICINE.

FIRING THE CWH ONE-HANDED MUST HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR YOU.

...

チャ…
CHAK

YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO LIVE WITH THAT. BE EXTRA CAUTIOUS FROM NOW ON.

SURE THING.

IF HE BRINGS ME TO HQ, I'M DONE FOR. SO, WHAT'S MY MOVE?

HE WON'T KILL ME OUTRIGHT?

BUT HE'LL SHOOT OFF MY ARMS AND LEGS BEFORE HE MOVES ME. THOROUGH LITTLE BASTARD.

!!!

HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

DASH!!

LOOKS LIKE IT. I WISH THEY'D ARRIVED EARLIER— IDEALLY WHILE YOU WERE STILL FIGHTING.

YOU SAID IT.

ARE THEY THE BACKUP I WAS WAIT-ING FOR?

THEY KNOW EACH OTHER, BUT THEY'RE NOT FRIENDS.

I BET HE THINKS THIS WILL BE HARD TO EXPLAIN.

HE'S WORRIED THEY MIGHT NOT BELIEVE HIS STORY!

HELP!

HE'S GONNA KILL ME!

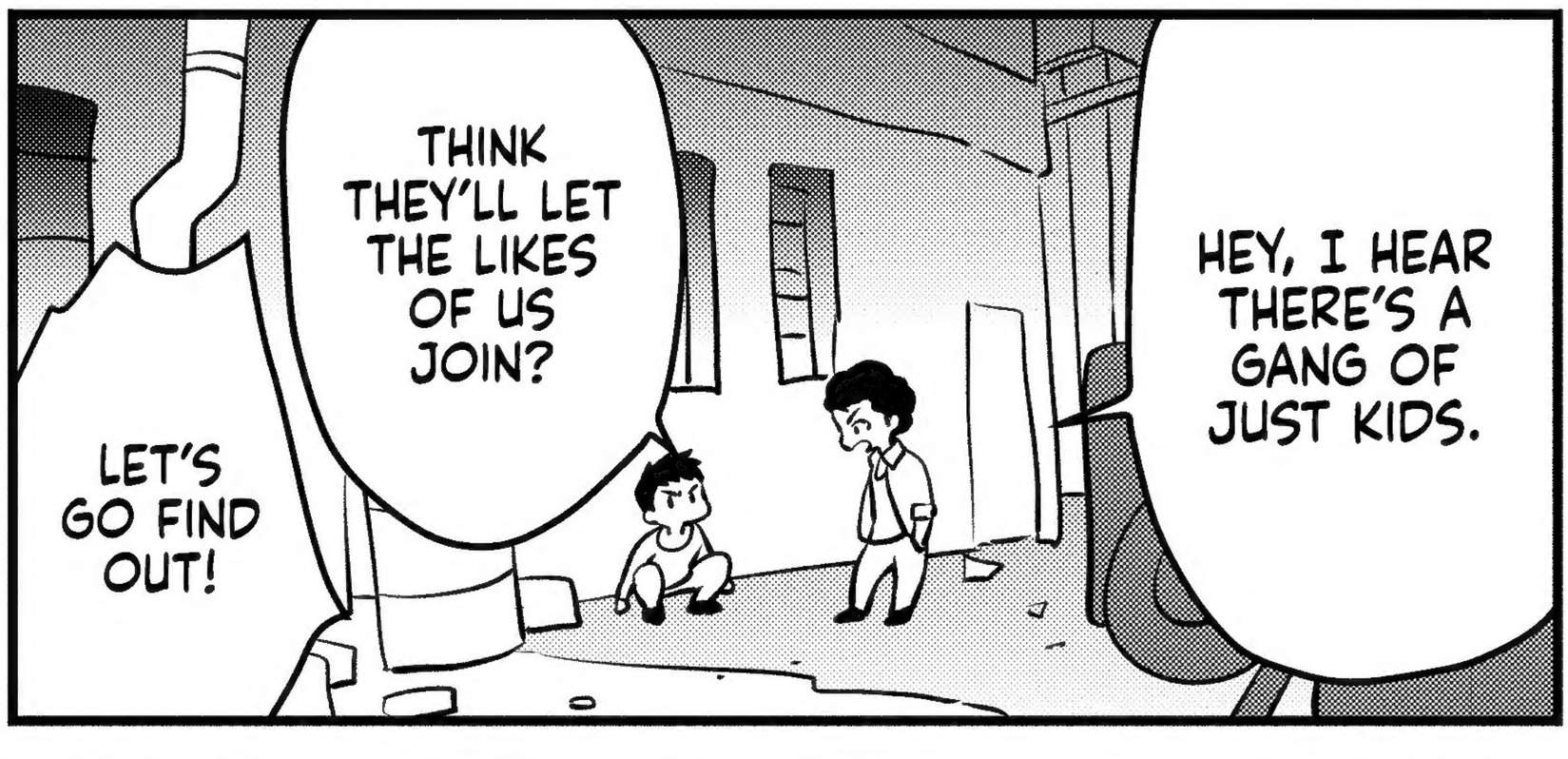
To Be Continued in Volume 7

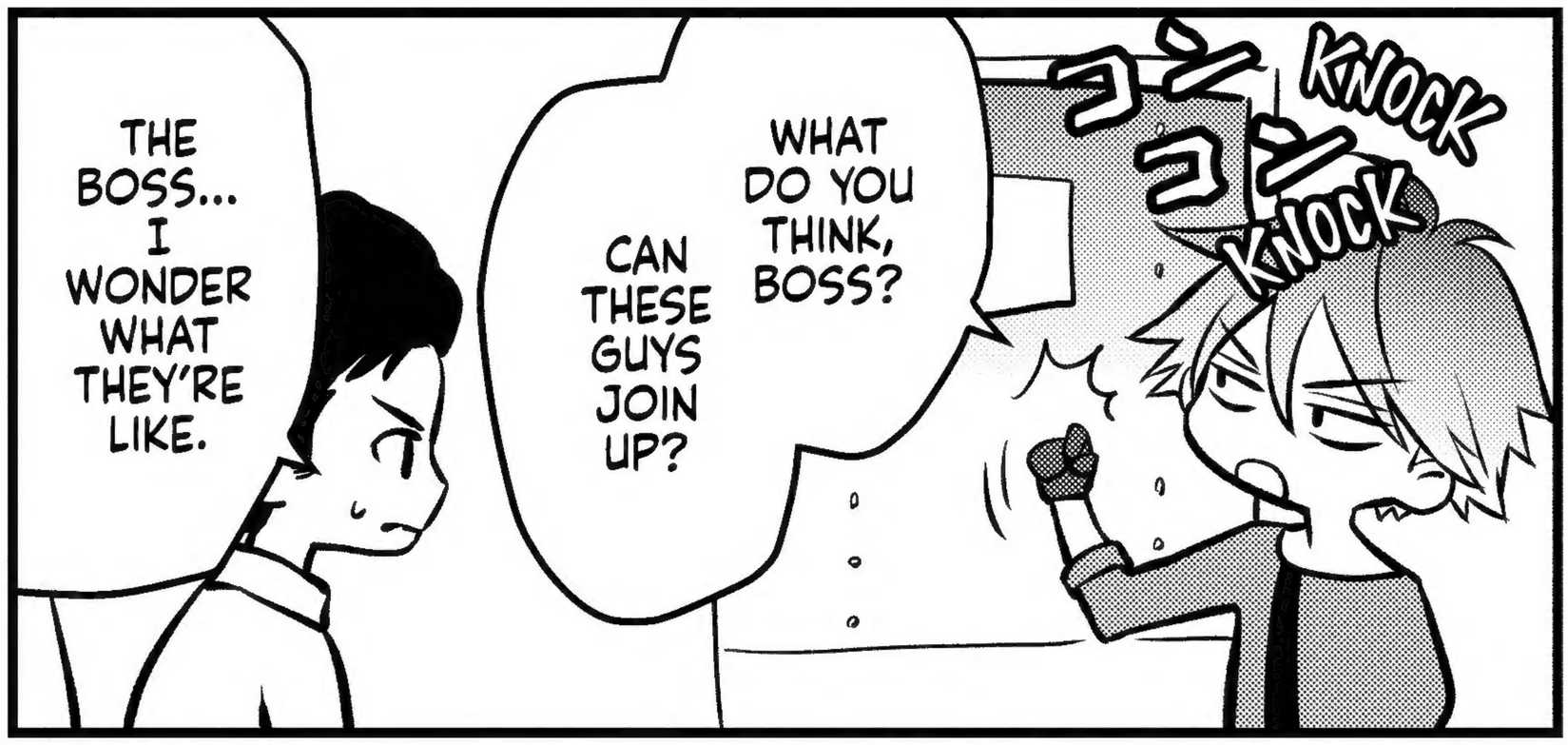
REBUILD WORLD

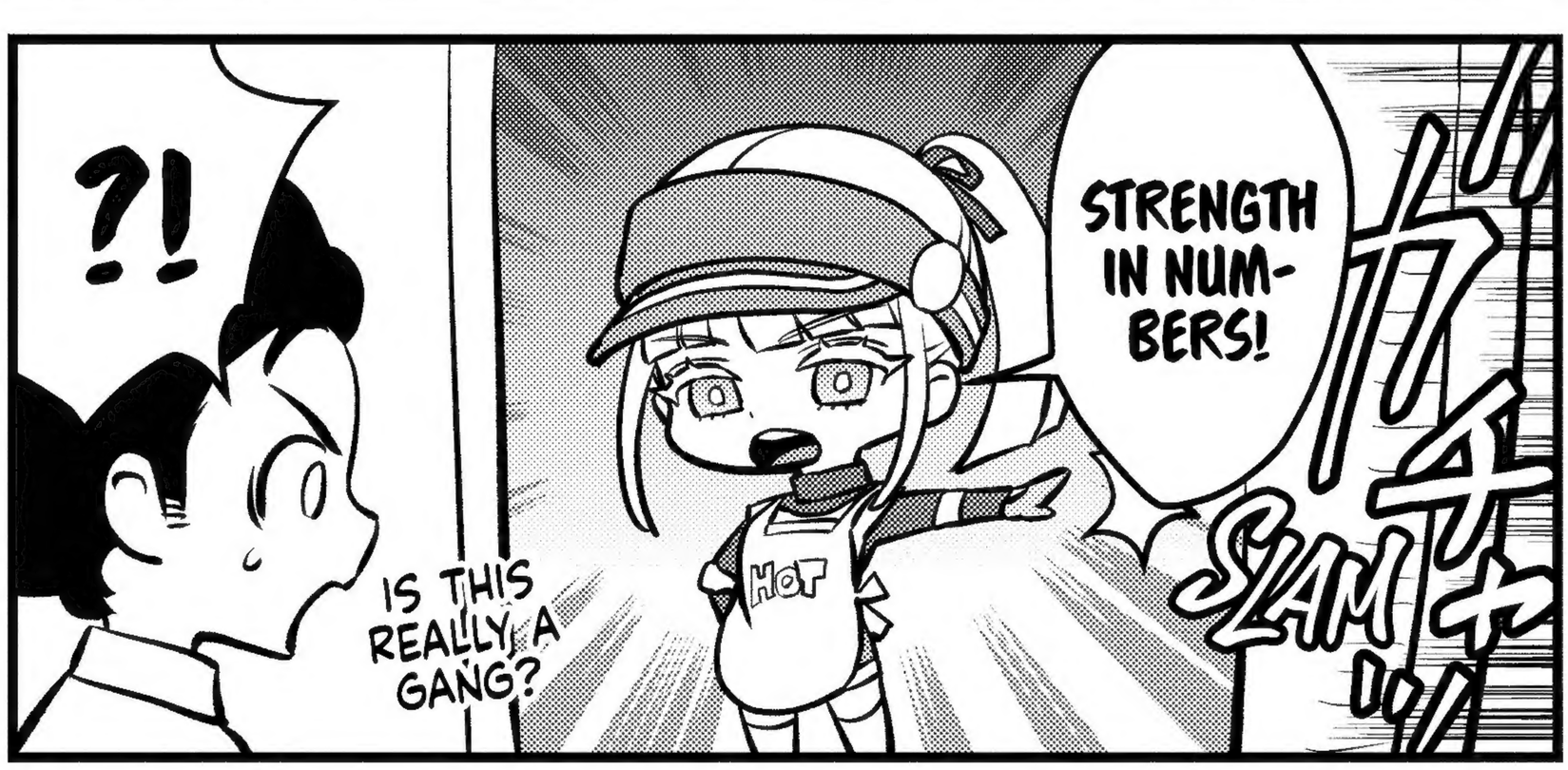
Foreboding

YAJIMA'S BULLET RACES TOWARD AKIRA!
THE NECKLACE AKIRA GAVE ME!
SNAP
せっ Pick
せっ Pick
HE MUST BE IN TROUBLE!
THE NECKLACE BREAKS CONSTANTLY, SO ERIO AND ARICIA ARE ALWAYS READY TO FIX IT.
IT'S A-OK NOW!

Sheryl's Gang







REBUILD WORLD Vol. 6
by Kirihito Ayamura (Manga), Nahuse (Original Work), Gin (Character Designer), yish (Environmental Artist), cell (Mechanical Designer)

Translated by William Varteresian
Edited by NegativePrimes
Lettered by Vadim K.

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

REBUILD WORLD VOL. 6
© Kirihito Ayamura 2022 ©Nahuse 2022

First published in Japan in 2022 by KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo.
English translation rights arranged with KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo.

All rights reserved. In accordance with the U.S. Copyright Act of 1976, the scanning, uploading, and electronic sharing of any part of this book without the permission of the publisher is unlawful piracy and theft of the author's intellectual property.

Find more books like this one at www.j-novel.club!

President and Publisher: Samuel Pinansky
Manga Line Manager: J. Collis
Managing Translator: Kristi Iwashiro
Managing Editor: Regan Durand
Marketing Manager: Stephanie Hii
Project Manager: Philip Reuben

ISBN: 978-1-7183-1745-1
Digital Edition 1.0